

IT HURTS WHEN BEING JUDGED: AN EYE TRACKING STUDY IN TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

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Background

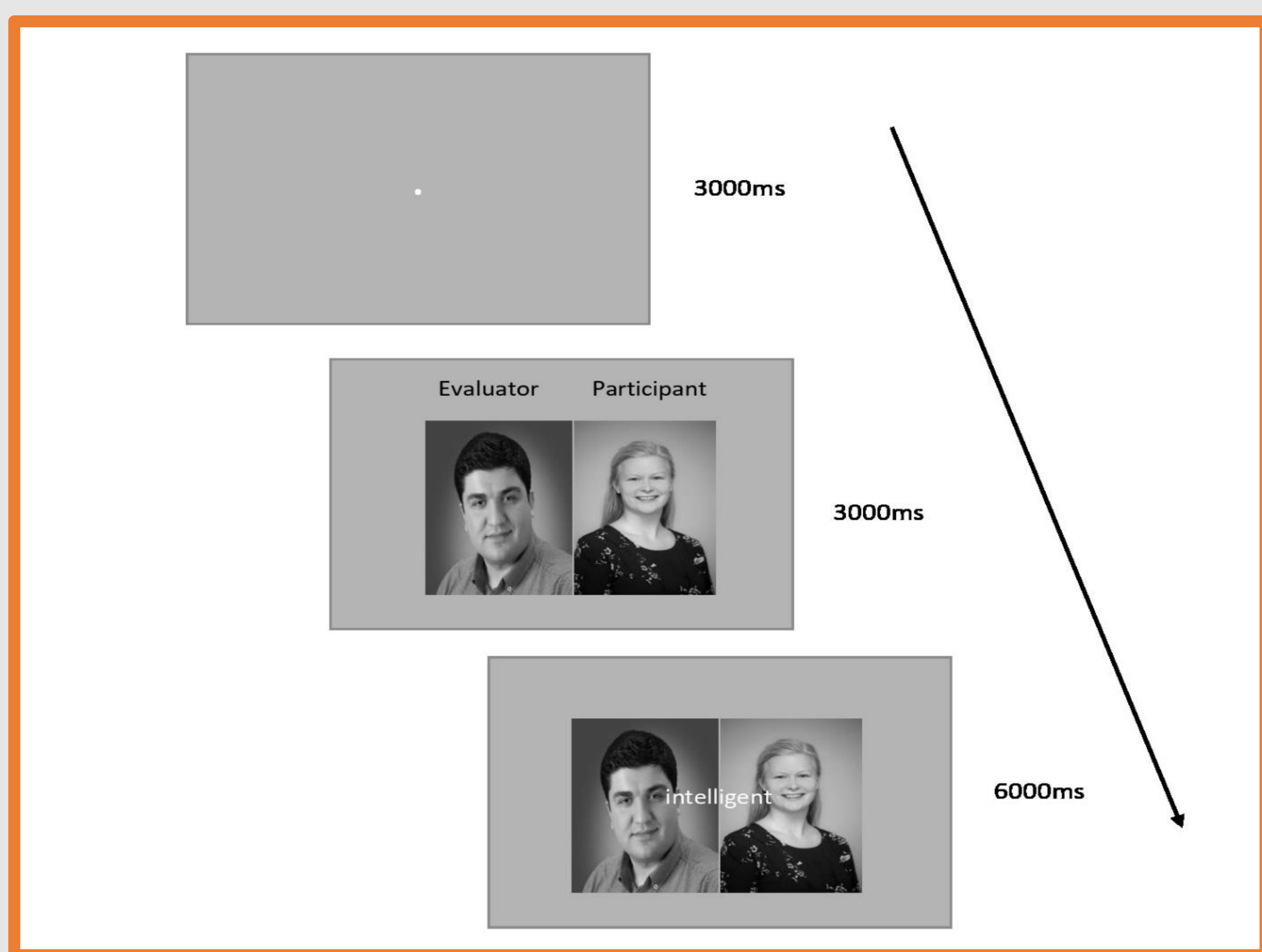
The need to belong, to be accepted and to be loved is a universal human need, and being thwarted in this desire can elicit negative emotions. Transgender people are more vulnerable to social rejection, potentially leading to more inter- and intrapersonal pain. The main goal of this study is to determine the underlying mechanisms that maintain poor health in transgender persons.

Hypothesis: Transgender individuals will fixate longer on the self and/or feedback during negative feedback relative to cisgender comparisons.

Methods

The first impression paradigm provides explicit feedback of people how desirable or likeable individuals are. By exposing cisgender men ($M_{age}=25.91$, $SD=6.29$, $n=24$) and cisgender women ($M_{age}=30.12$, $SD=9.65$, $n=33$) versus transgender men (TM; $M_{age}=32.22$, $SD=13.26$, $n=18$) and transgender women (TW; $M_{age}=36.46$, $SD=10.14$, $n=13$) to positive and negative social evaluations, differences in emotional attention towards the self, the evaluator and social evaluative information (i.e., AOIs) were investigated

First Impression Paradigm

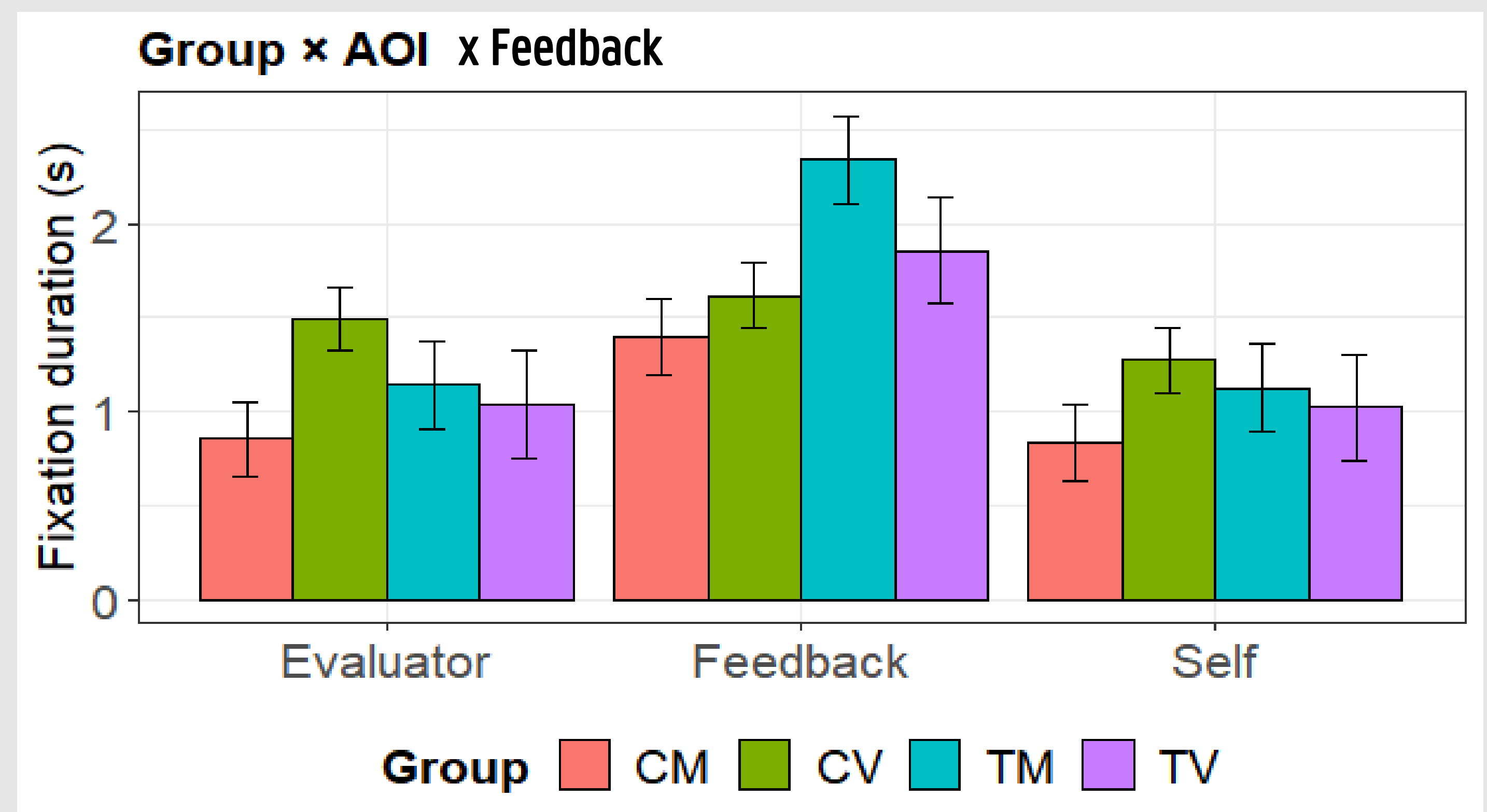


4 blocks * n = 18 trials, N = 72 trials in total, duration each block: 5min, total duration of task: 20min

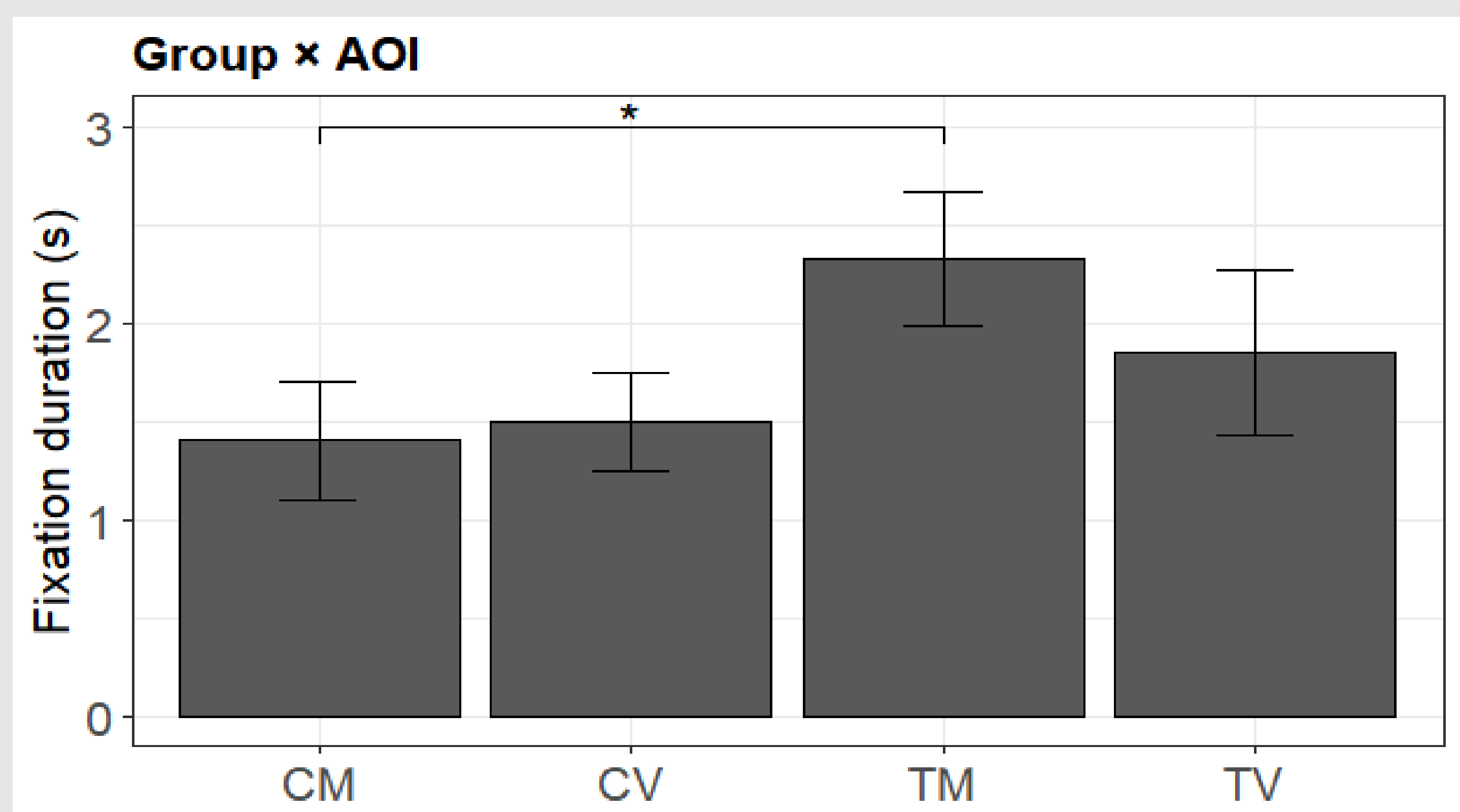
References

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Results



Significant AOI × group effect for average fixation duration, $F(6,15877.3) = 78.31$, $p < .001$.



Pairwise comparisons showed that TM focused their attention longer towards the social evaluation, compared to cisgender men.

Conclusion

- Biased attention towards social evaluative information may reflect a mechanism through which transgender people experience more inter- and intrapersonal distress.
- The biased attention may be due to the lower emotion regulation of transgender individuals.
- Our preliminary result is showing an increase in vulnerability of TM towards social evaluations.

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